

that's not fair. I believe those of us who've been elected have got a solemn obligation to tackle tough problems. I know that's what the American people expect.

I'm confident we can get something done. I really am. I don't care what all the naysayers say or the people that are so political they can't—they can't get out of their current mindset here in Washington. See, I believe when it's all said and done, the American people are going to start speaking. And louder and louder, they're going to say, "We got the problem with Social Security folks. Now we expect you in Washington to do something about it." And I'm ready to take the lead on it and continue to take the lead on it. There's no doubt in my mind I'm doing the right thing addressing this issue, and there's no doubt in my mind when Republicans and Democrats come together to solve this problem, a lot of good people are going to be saying, "You know what, I've done my duty for the American people."

Thanks for letting me come by to say hello. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:19 p.m. at the Capitol Hilton Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Gary Roden, 2005 national chairman, Carole Bionda, 2005 immediate past chair, and Kirk Pickarel, president and chief executive officer, Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc.; Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan; and Chairman Kim Chong-il of North Korea.

### **Statement on Senate Confirmation of Janice R. Brown as United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit**

*June 8, 2005*

I commend the Senate for voting to confirm Justice Janice Rogers Brown. During her tenure on the California Supreme Court and California Court of Appeal, Justice Brown has distinguished herself as a brilliant and fair-minded jurist who is committed to the rule of law. Justice Brown exemplifies the American dream of personal achievement and excellence, and she will be a great asset to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

### **Remarks on the PATRIOT Act in Columbus, Ohio**

*June 9, 2005*

Thank you all very much. Thank you. Please be seated. Thanks for the warm welcome. It's great to be back in Columbus, Ohio. I remind people that my grandfather was raised here in Columbus, Ohio. One time I reminded people when I was in Columbus that my grandfather was raised here, my dad's dad—my mother called me; she said, "Why didn't you tell them my father was raised in Dayton?" [Laughter] I said, "From this point forward I will, Mother." [Laughter] My dad's dad was raised in Columbus, and my mother's dad was raised in Dayton. [Laughter] It's nice to be back.

I want to thank you all for letting me come by the Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy. I appreciate what you do here. I appreciate the hard work that you put forth in order to train men and women to be on the front-line of serving our communities and our country. I appreciate the fact that these are tough times for those who wear the uniform. But you've got to understand that the men and women who wear the badge of peace—the peacekeepers, the people on the frontlines of keeping our community safe—have got the gratitude of the American people. On behalf of a grateful nation, thank you for what you do.

And I appreciate my friend Attorney General Al Gonzales joining me today. Thanks for coming over to introduce me. Get back to work. [Laughter]

I want to thank Governor Taft joining us. Governor, I appreciate you being here.

I want to thank Senator Mike DeWine for joining us today. Proud you're here, Senator. Congressman Pat Tiberi—this is his district—Congressman, I appreciate you coming. He said, by the way, "Ohio State is in my district." He said, "You tell those Texas Longhorns"—[laughter]—I'm not going to tell them what you said. [Laughter] I appreciate Congressman Dave Hobson joining us as well.

I want to thank the State attorney general, Jim Petro, for joining us; U.S. Attorney Greg Lockhart. I want to thank Director Ken Morckel for joining us today. Thank you,